

Literary and Scientific Intelligence.

REV. DR. LIVINGSTON'S AFRICAN RESEARCHES.

Our enterprising missionary has, since the early part of 1853, been engaged on his fourth tour of exploration in the interior of Africa. Arriving at the town of the chief Sekelelu, on the river Linyanti, in September of that year, he proceeded in a north-westerly direction, in company with a detachment of the followers of that chief, in search of an outlet on the west coast, and after surmounting great difficulties and hardships, he at length reached St. Paul de Loanda, at the end of May, 1854. Here Dr. Livingston was entertained with the greatest kindness and hospitality by her Majesty's commissioner, E. Gabriel, Esq., and throughout the territories bordering on the west coast, subject to the crown of Portugal, he was also treated by the authorities with the utmost consideration and respect. In consequence of the loss of some of Dr. Livingston's letters, by the wreck of the vessel in which they were despatched, the detailed account of his extended journey has not come to hand. In his last communication he announces his intention to traverse the country in an opposite direction, in the hope of reaching the east coast at Quilimane, and, by that route, to take ship for England.—*Evangelical Magazine.*

LEVEL OF THE TWO OCEANS.

The popular notion which has so long prevailed that the Atlantic Ocean was many feet higher than the Pacific at the Isthmus of Panama, has been formally exploded. Colonel Totten has decided, after a series of careful tidal observations, taken at Panama and Aspinal Bay, and connected by accurate levels along the line of railroad, that the mean height of the two oceans is exactly the same, although owing to the difference in the rise of tide of both places, there are of course, times when one of the oceans is higher or lower than the other; but their mean level, that is to say, their height at half-tide, is now proved to be exactly the same.—*Belfast Journal.*

DEATH OF PROFESSOR JOHNSTON.

The Durham (England) Chronicle says:—Prof. Johnston was born at Paisley, somewhere about the year 1796. From this town he was transferred, while very young, to Manchester, where his father continued to reside for a few years, but afterward returned to Scotland, and settled at Kilmarnock. Thrown upon his own resources at an early age, the youth commenced the battle of life with characteristic courage and resolve. He entered the University of Glasgow, supporting himself for some time by private tuition. In 1825 he opened a school at Durham, and in the year 1830 married one of the daughters of the late Thomas Ridley, Esq., of Park End. Thus possessed of a competent income, he resolved to gratify a taste for chemistry, which had now acquired predominating force, and for this purpose he chose Berzelius as his preceptor, and visited Sweden to study under that celebrated man.

Upon the foundation of the Durham University in 1833, the readership in Chemistry and Mineralogy was bestowed upon Mr. Johnston; and this appointment was retained until the period of his decease.—Except during term time, however, he continued to reside in the neighborhood of Edinburgh, and in the year 1843 he was elected chemist to the Agricultural Society of Scotland. When the society was dissolved, he made Durham his domicile. Most of his substantive productions relate to the chemistry of agriculture. Without enumerating them fully, we may refer to the "Lectures on Agricultural Chemistry and Geology," and to the "Catechism" of the same sciences, as the more celebrated of his works in this department. Of the latter, thirty-three editions have been published in England alone. It has been translated into nearly every language of Europe, and has been sown broadcast in America.

Rarely, perhaps, has a scientific man travelled so far or so rapidly. Among his less professional productions, the "Notes on North America" should be mentioned with respect. But the most attractive of his compositions is "The Chemistry of Common Life." It is also the most recent. In addition to these publications, the Professor contributed occasionally to the Edinburgh Review; and frequently to Blackwood's Magazine. Professor Johnston's last illness was somewhat rapid, and his death to many unexpected. He had been on the continent for several months, and was about to return to England, when he caught cold, but without apprehending any serious results. Scarcely, however, had he reached Durham when symptoms of hemorrhage in the lungs appeared, and he died September 18, 1855, to the age of 59.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE.

The Annual Meeting of the Canadian Institute was held in their rooms, in York Chambers, on Saturday evening last. The Chair was occupied by the late President, the Hon. Sir John Beverley Robinson, Bart. After the ordinary routine business was transacted, Professor Wilson, of University College, at the request of the President, read the Annual Report. Whilst the balloting for the new officers of the Institute was proceeding, some interesting remarks "On points in the Natural History of the Leech," were made by Professor Boveil, of Trinity College; and a carefully prepared paper on "A specimen of the Proteus of the Lakes," was read by J. G. Hodgins, Esq., Deputy Superintendent of Education. Several specimens of this reptile were exhibited. A committee was appointed to examine into its claims to be considered a new species, peculiar to the Canadian Lakes; and we may have something to add in regard to this curious creature at a future time. The following is the list of the Office bearers for the Session 1855-6:

President—George William Allan, Esq.

1st Vice-President—Professor J. Boveil, Trinity College.

2nd Vice-President—E. A. Meredith, Esq.

Treasurer—Dalrymple Crawford, Esq.

Recording Secretary—F. W. Cumberland, Esq.

Corresponding Secretary—Thomas Henning, Esq.

Librarian—Sandford Fleming, Esq.

Curator of Museum—Professor E. Chapman, University College.

Council—Professor Wilson, Professor Croft, Professor Cherriman, Prof. Hind, Samuel Thompson, Esq., and Oliver Mowatt, Esq.—*Globe.*

Departmental Notices.

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